

(Washington, DC) - Today is Tax Day and in honor of working families across the US, Congressman Rodriguez calls on Congress to pass comprehensive reform of the tax code to protect the hard-earned dollars of millions of middle-class families everywhere. Congressman Rodriguez applauds the passage of the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007, and joins in full support of Democratic Congressional initiatives to reform the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).

"The Taxpayer Protection Act is a great first step towards progress in the tax code of the US," says Congressman Rodriguez. "The next big step is reforming the AMT so we can truly reduce the burden on our middle-class families and ensure that they are getting the most out of their hard-earned dollars."

The AMT is an income tax originally intended for only the wealthiest of Americans. As a result of inflation, the AMT is now being paid by nearly 4 million middle-class families making between \$75,000 and \$100,000. The number of affected taxpayers is expected to rise to 30 million within just a few years.

"Teachers, firefighters and police officers are suffering because of the unfair burden of the current AMT calculation," says Rodriguez. "Nearly 190,000 families in Texas alone are affected by the obsolete formula for the AMT. Middle-class tax relief is a top priority for the Democratic Congress and I want Congress to move swiftly in reforming this arcane tax calculation that unfairly taxes our middle-class families."

Key components of the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007:

- Elimination of the family business tax by allowing spouses in a family-owned business to pay social security and Medicare taxes as a sole proprietorship
- Notification in identity theft cases where the IRS suspects unauthorized use of taxpayer's identity is discovered in the course of tax fraud investigation
- Requiring the IRS to reach out to eligible taxpayers for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) - a tax break worth thousands of dollars a year for working families
- Notification of taxpayers on the Internet about unclaimed tax refunds